

1923

1948



This year the Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan marks its twenty-fifth year of service in the care and education of dependent boys and girls

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The boys in this picture, like all the children at the Protestant Home, are typical of boys and girls all over Canada. They will some day be guardians of all that we hold dear. Let us not deny them the opportunity to better equip themselves for the task. Remember they are Canada's Greatest Asset.

# To Our Many Friends

Twenty-five years is a considerable time in Western Canada's history—a lot happened in that period on the Prairies.

It is now 25 years since we began this Protestant Home for children. In these years hundreds of unfortunate children have found a home, good care, wholesome environment, education and training. Our children come from homes broken by sickness, death, poverty or misconduct on the part of the parents, or other serious misfortune. The need of the child is the basis of acceptance into this new and larger family—as far as our room, money and ability will permit us to accept them.

The land was donated 27 years ago by the friends of Indian Head. The first building was erected in 1923. From that date to the present the directing of the Home has been carried on voluntarily by a Protestant Board of Directors, who have given unstintingly of their time and energy. An efficient staff has been maintained. The work has been improving and enlarging, and the demands increasing.

We are very appreciative of all the help given by the thousands of friends who have donated in the past. We ask your interest and co-operation in the future. It is for the boys and girls who need care, to give them an opportunity to become more worthy and worthwhile citizens.

You can help by annual gifts according to your ability to give. You can speak to others. There is an endowment fund in which you can place a sum, either now or by the terms of your will. This will be a sum in your name, the interest from which will be used to help our youth for years to come. Make further inquiries regarding this.

In addition, we plan to erect another needed building to provide a gymnasium, hospital and other accommodation to add to our services. The size of this building will depend on the funds obtained. See further on in this booklet regarding details. Can we count on you to help us accomplish this objective as soon as possible?

To all those who helped in the past we extend our thanks; we appeal to an ever-enlarging circle to be sharers in the future. This is the only Protestant Children's Home in Saskatchewan. There are about 33 other, non-Protestant, ones. Let us keep this ever an "A-1", up-to-date Home for those who need it, with the best in care, equipment, leadership and character building—not just an institution but a "home" in every sense.

There is also the increasingly famous "Downing Farm" just south of the town of Indian Head. It was donated by Mr. Downing for the welfare of the children, and here the older boys are learning the fundamentals of our province's basic industry—farming.

The whole project is a big and worthy task. Be a sharer with many others in maintaining and advancing the welfare of the many Protestant children that will need this Home and benefit from its advantages in the years to come.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Directors.





Some day these youngsters may be able to "cool-off" in a swimming pool.

## *The New Building*

Because of the lack of gymnasium and hospital facilities, and because of the overcrowding of the two pavilions, it is imperative that a new building be erected to meet these needs. The desirability of adequate gymnasium facilities is obvious. The present lack of proper hospital accommodation is a serious disability, while perhaps a basement area would be useful to relieve the other buildings of their present overcrowded conditions.

Such a building will be placed between the two pavilions in such a position that it may be added to in the future.

The Board of Directors have already named a Standing Committee which has presented plans, specifications and costs to the Executive, and which will be presented to the full Board of Directors when called.

The joint meeting of the Grand Lodges has authorized the project and the collection of the necessary funds to construct the building. The exact size of the building will be determined by the contributions received.

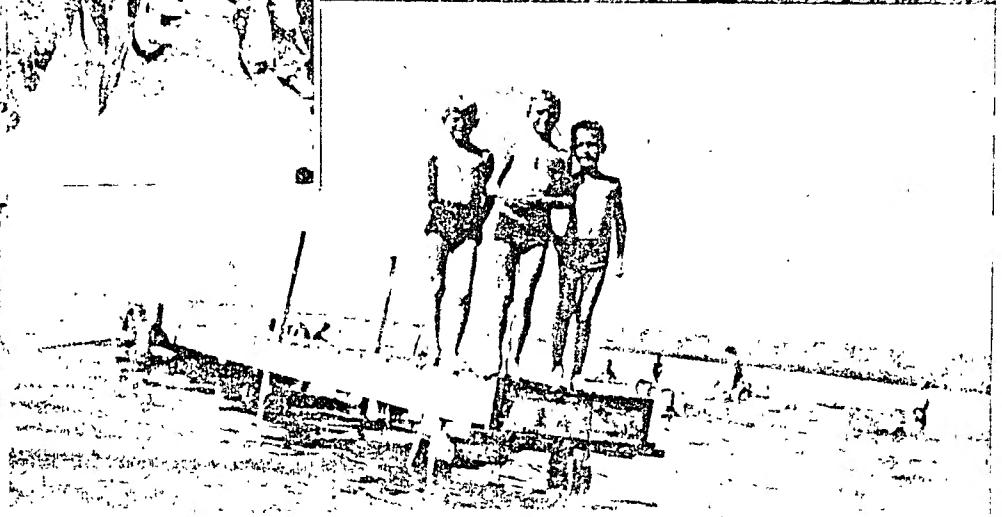
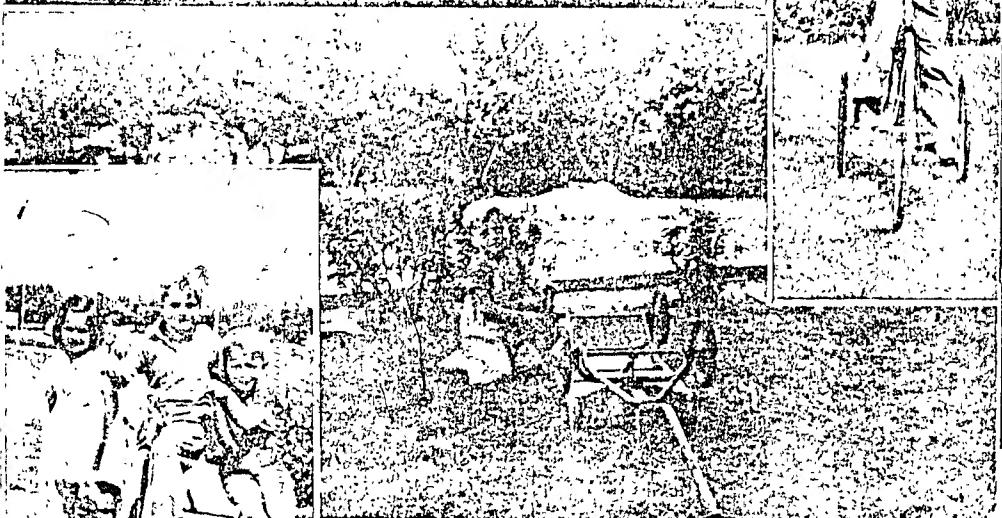
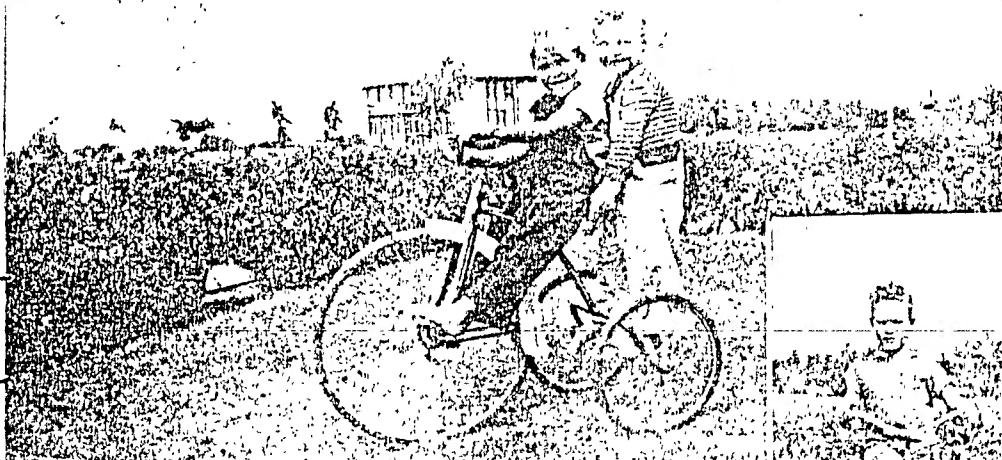
The men's Grand Lodge has committed itself to seek to raise a minimum of \$10.00 per member throughout the province. While the L.O.B.A. did not have time to consider this matter while in session, it is not likely the ladies will be less responsive to the appeal than the men. The Provincial Executive of the L.O.L. was directed to see that the commitment of the Grand Lodge will be carried out and sufficient money raised for the Building Fund.

A sum of \$75,000 or more is needed to erect a really substantial and suitable building for future use. It is a big proposition, and we must think in big terms for a big purpose. The Building Fund must be raised, of course, in addition to the usual fall campaign for the maintenance of the Home.

We need to organize to do the job, and we appeal to all friends of little children to assist: make a list of those who are able to subscribe, and then call on them and explain the situation. Outline the Home, the need for more room, the plan, the approximate cost, and how the Home is operated on voluntary subscriptions for the good of needy children. It can be done! Be a helper!

Send to Head Office, 1961 Angus St., Regina, Sask., for official subscription forms.

The Directors.





Pavilion No. 1

Many words have been written during the past twenty-five years in an effort to describe adequately the Protestant Home for Children at Indian Head. While many of the reports portray the Home in glowing terms, none can catch the real "family" spirit which prevails there. Only by a personal visit with the splendid group of boys and girls and supervisory personnel who make up our family can one catch the spirit.

In writing of his experiences, a recent visitor to the Home said: "It would please you to see the scrupulously neat and clean dormitories, with each little bed in perfect order. Here you find orderliness and variety combined to make a homey appearance. On the coverlets of the little girls' beds were the favorite dolls or other playthings.

"It was a fine day and the tiny tots were on the playground. Much has been provided for their amusement and healthful recreation, but I couldn't help but think how many things could be added to the playground equipment if funds were available.

"At lunch time, when the older children came from their classes at the Indian Head public and high schools, we saw upwards of seventy well mannered children seated in the dining room. To us who sometimes find it difficult to maintain proper table discipline and manners with three or four children it was amazing to see the good behaviour of these youngsters.

# Count Home at Head



Pavilion No. 2

"It was evident that their pleasant behaviour was the result of skilful training, but it was the more impressive because it seemed effortless. There were no scoldings or commands of any kind.

"Of course, I do not want to paint a picture of angels. There is often a sly nudge or a roguish wink, but all well controlled and decorous."

These comments of a visitor have justly characterized one of the most wonderful aspects of the Orange Home at Indian Head--the fact that it has the true atmosphere of a "home", rather than the harshness of an institution.

As the same visitor also commented:

"None of the children have that repressed and apprehensive manner so often associated with public institutions. They have bright, open, cheerful countenances to prove they are not ruled by threats or fear."

While there are many impressive and important facts about the Orange Home, some of which are recounted below, none is more important than this. It is, indeed, a marvelous accomplishment that these children, during their most formative years, are being provided with the care, affection and guidance similar to that of a normal Christian home. It must make every one who has in any way contributed to the Orange Home proud and happy, and there is no better incentive to continue this good work and to expand it where necessary to meet increased responsibilities.

The excellent conditions at Indian Head depend, of course, on the staff, and particularly the Matron. A Matron of a home for children must have the instincts of a good mother, the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, the firmness of a sergeant major and administrative genius of a captain of industry. The present incumbent is a near approach to these ideals.

Apart from the activities in the Home, the boys and girls have a normal social and religious life. Only three pupils from the Home failed to pass their school grades in 1947, which is above the average of success. Those who do fail are encouraged to persevere toward ultimate success.

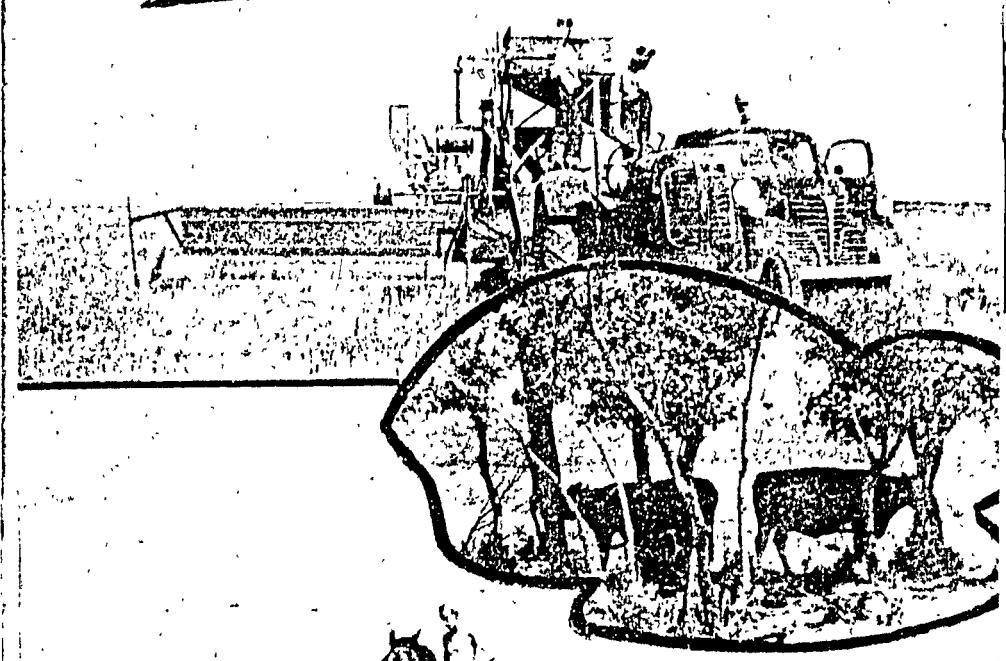
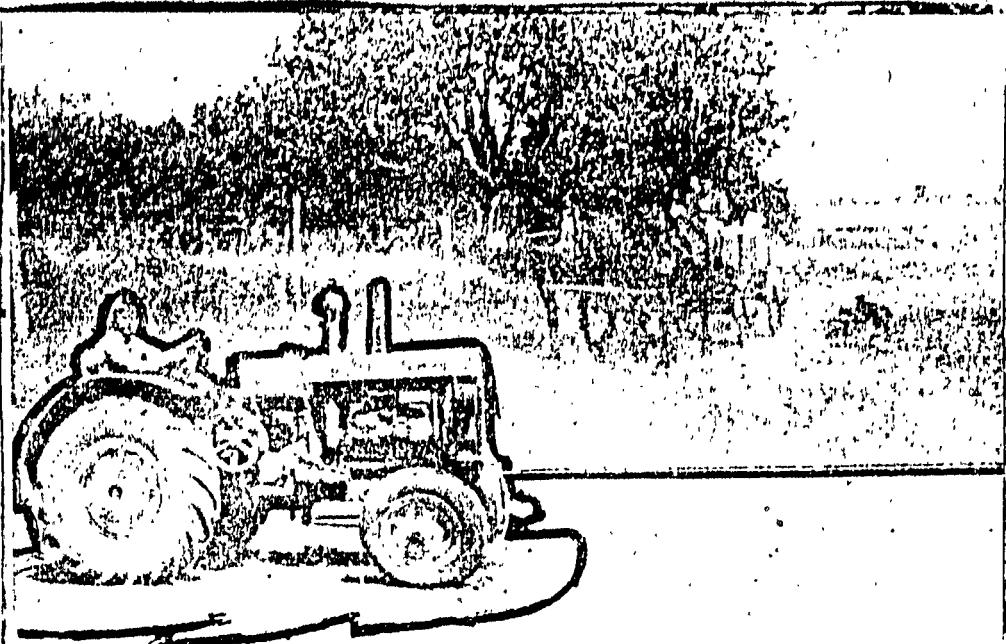
There is regular attendance at church and Sunday school, with the children attending the denomination favored by their parents or guardians.

On the side of recreation, those who are old enough are encouraged to take part in sports and social activities of the community. The boys play hockey and curl, and two boys played on the Indian Head senior hockey team in the season 1947-48. Children of the Home are included in the membership of the Scouts, Cubs and Canadian Girls in Training, and are also attendant at the A.Y.P.A. and Presbyterian Camps.

To those who show inclination or aptitude, an opportunity is given for a musical education or other cultural studies.

In the Home itself, the finest activities are maintained. There is a constant Christian atmosphere and regular devotional exercises. There are the usual joyous festivities at Christmas and gifts are exchanged. National holidays are duly observed with emphasis on loyalty to our King and Country and on the principles on which the Home is founded.

Facilities for play on the grounds are not as great as might be desired, and with the limited staff there is not as much playground supervision and teaching as would be liked. It is beyond the means of the Home at present to provide a





This year's winner proudly displays the Myrtle E. McConnell Shield, presented to the boy or girl, at the Home, who expresses in his or her life the highest ideals of citizenship.

ing work which not only gives better equips them to assume the responsibilities of adult life. Both the boys and the girls at the pavilions are taught household duties, and they assist in kitchen, dining room and dormitories without sacrifice of time for study and recreation.

The older girls learn various sorts of housewifely skills, and leave the Home with valuable home-making ability.

Boys learn much of horticulture and many technical skills. They have a small building on the grounds where they can exercise their hobbies and craftsmanship.

For older boys, of an age at which they are embarrassed if treated as children among younger children, the Downing Memorial Farm has proved a valuable auxiliary to the central Home. Twelve such young men are in residence there, where, under the guidance of the farm manager, they are

supervisor of sports and physical training. Another feature, which we might hope for in the future, is a swimming pool.

In the central part of the Home every opportunity is provided for the boys and the girls to develop skill through useful and interest-

satisfaction in itself but also

This lad didn't win the shield this year but that carrot looks mighty good. The garden provides the major portion of the fresh vegetables needed by the healthy appetites at the Home.

doing men's work which develops their natural pride and independence. Some idea of the extent of the farm can be gained from the fact that at the end of last year it had 5 horses, 20 cattle, 8 calves, 6 hogs and 240 poultry, and a full line of power equipment.

It can thus be seen that the aim of the Orange Home is not merely to provide shelter to unfortunate children during their dependent years, but to turn out boys and girls of fine character and habits who can play a useful role in the world.

In keeping with the "homey" nature of the Home, there is no attempt to make the children conform to a uniform mold. It is fully recognized that among so many youngsters there is bound to be various capacities in intelligence and other natural abilities. Due allowance is made for the characteristics of each child with the goal of helping each to train and develop his or her natural gifts to the best advantage.

It need hardly be said that the greatest care is taken of the children's health and safety. Medical and dental attention is provided by two local doctors and a dentist at very reasonable fees. The Matron is a fully qualified nurse. In cases of infectious or contagious diseases isolation is necessary.

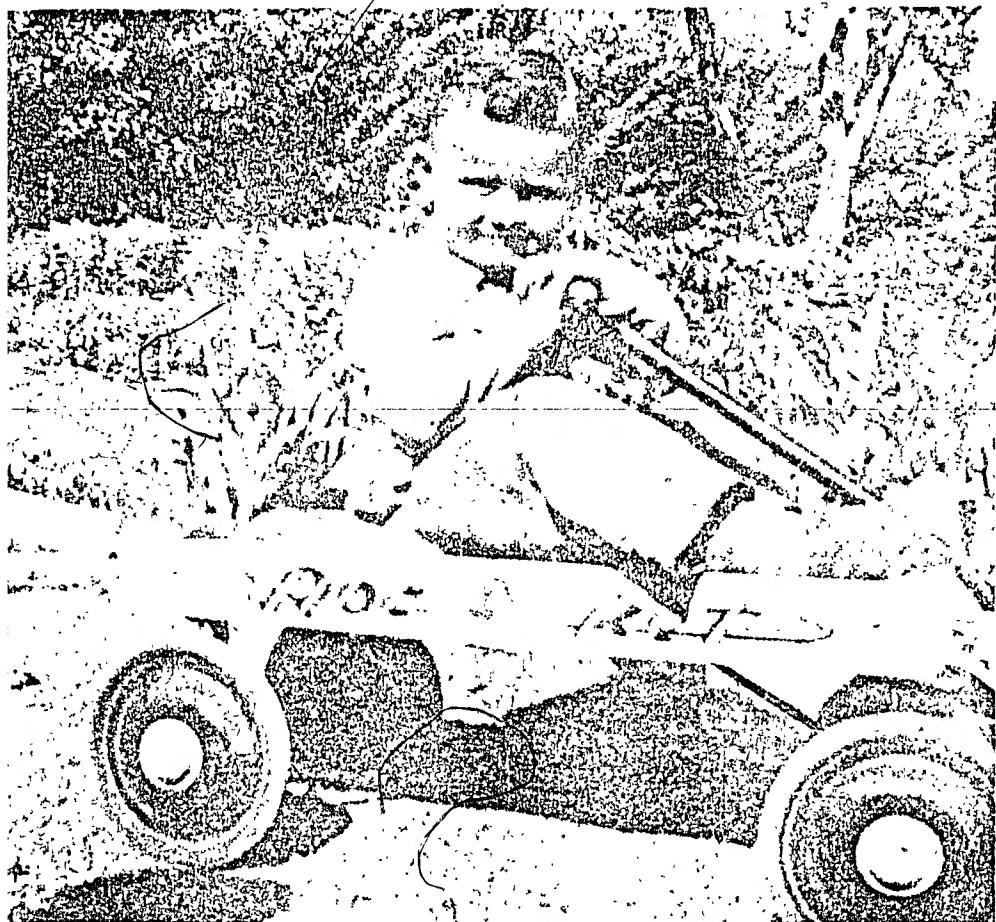


Unfortunately, when an epidemic occurs this is impossible under present conditions, and this is an important reason why the new building is urgently needed. In addition to the diligent precautions of the staff, there is periodic inspection by the provincial authorities to guard against the dread possibility of fire. An up-to-date fire alarm system and means of escape are provided.

It is really impossible to sum up the benefits of the Orange Home in a few words. When it is remembered that well over 300 children, of whom only 7 were children of Orange members, have passed through or are now in the Home, it can be imagined how far reaching are its effects. It is wonderful though for those who have helped to make the Home possible to reflect on the influence it has had on many of our best young citizens. And this is borne out by the known facts. Many of "our" boys and girls have graduated from technical and high schools with distinction and are filling important positions in the business world and are taking a leading part in community life. Forty-three boys are known to have enlisted in His Majesty's forces during the War, and the majority of these served as non-commissioned and commissioned officers. The record of the results of the work of the Home can produce nothing but pride.

The Home is the direct responsibility of The Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan, which is composed of three classes of members, "Life," "Active," and "Associate." Life membership comes from a payment of \$50 in one sum or two consecutive annual payments of \$25. Membership fee of both Active and Associate members is \$2 annually. Associate membership is open to friends of the Home, who are invited to take part in discussions at meetings of the Society but who cannot vote.

Because of the need arising from the many unfortunate children who would otherwise not receive the Christian and patriotic care and training of the Home—the only such Protestant Home in Saskatchewan—every person who understands



such benefits should support the Home to the very best of his or her ability. Can there be any finer investment than our children? Who can measure the value of money against the opportunity for these children to grow up to be among our best citizens? The need is urgent for a continued and increased flow of funds, both to sustain the Home and to enable it to undertake greater responsibilities and new opportunities. This presents a real Christian challenge. Let us all accept it and do our part.



The little lady in our calendar picture is a little uncertain about what is in store for her but big brother will see her through. At the Protestant Home every effort is made to keep the family together. Your donations will greatly assist us. Don't wait for a canvasser to call. Send your donation to The Orange Benevolent Society, 1961 Angus Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, or if you prefer to make a regular contribution you will find a handy subscription blank on the back of each sheet in the calendar pad.